

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9570

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0552

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PINT, GY

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF FAA SECTION 32(POLITICAL PRISONERS) IN GUYANA

REF: (A) STATE 068545 ; (B) GEORGETOWN 1181, AUGUST 9, 1973;
(C) GEORGETOWN 0257

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF A, CURRENTLY THERE ARE NO RPT NO INSTANCES OF INTERNMENT OR IMPRISONMENT IN GUYANA FOR POLITICAL REASONS. GUYANA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM, HOWEVER, IS EVOLVING IN AUTHORITARIAN DIRECTION AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ESTABLISHED IN CHAPTER TWO OF CONSTITUTION ARE BEING ERODED. AT PRESENT STATE, GOG LIMITS ITSELF TO INTIMIDATION AND HARASSMENT OF ITS CRITICS. SEVERAL JOURNALISTS WHO CRITICIZED GOG HAVE BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR NEWSPAPERS, AND GOVERNMENT HAD ENACTED LEGISLATION PERMITTING PREVENTATIVE DETENTION (REF B).

2. MOST RECENT AND POTENTIALLY MOST EXPLOSIVE CASE OF SUCH TACTICS IS CHARGING OF LEADER OF SMALL OPPOSITION PARTY, GANRAJ KUMAR, WITH SEDITIOUS LIBEL (REF C). KUMAR, IF CONVICTED, COULD FACE POSSIBLE PRISON TERM. HOWEVER, IMAGE CONSCIOUS GOG APPEARS TO BE AWARE OF SIGNIFICANCE OF JAILING KUMAR AND IS PROCEEDINGLY SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY WITH PRELIMINARY JUDICIAL
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INQUIRY.

3. IN HYPOTHETICAL CASE POLITICAL PRISONERS DO APPEAR IN
GUYANA, USG THREAT TO DENY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WOULD BE VIEWED
BY GOG AND MOST GUYANESE AS UNJUSTIFIABLE INTERVENTION IN DOMESTIC
AFFAIRS. SUCH THREAT WOULD ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY COMPLICATE POSITION
OF ANY PRISONER BY MAKING HIM APPEAR AS AGENT OF OUTSIDE
POWER. KREBS

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Message Attributes

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